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AFOIN-1A-P/Maj Donelan/71067/vw
wrtn 25 Feb 55

B/L fr AirA, Taiwan, 12 Jan 55, subj: (Uncld) Suggestion for Improved Photographic Collection

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28 FEB 1955

AFOIN-1A-P 2nd Ind

Dept of the Air Force, Hq, USAF, Washington 25, D. C.

TO: United States Air Attache, American Embassy, Taipei, Taiwan

1. Basic letter and 1st indorsement have been reviewed with interest by the Directorate of Intelligence.

2. It is understood by this headquarters that three RF-86 aircraft referred to in first indorsement have been delivered.

3. Attention is invited to AFOIN cable, number 54320, 2 December 1954, which indicates delivery of eighteen RT-33's on monthly basis to be completed by middle of 1955.

4. Directorate of Intelligence will continue effort to expedite delivery.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

PAUL N. HARLOW
Lt Colonel,
Directorate of Intelligence

NO M/R REQUIRED.

COORDINATION: AFOIN-1A: Maj Donelan

Lt Col Harlow

Col Berry:

AFOIN-1A2: Maj Hoffman

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Office of the Air Attache

Taipei, Taiwan
12 January 1955

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SUBJECT: Suggestion for Improved Photographic Collection

THRU: Commander
Far East Air Forces
APO 925, U.S. Forces

TO: Director of Intelligence
Headquarters USAF
ATTN: Deputy Director of Intelligence
Washington 25, D.C.

1. Just prior to departing from Washington for duty in Formosa as Air Attache, General Lewis asked the undersigned officer to forward to him personally any ideas on the improvement of collection practices in the Far East area. This letter is written in answer to that request.

2. Based upon eleven months experience in this office, it is apparent that the personnel strength of the office is not large enough to properly accomplish both its intelligence and administrative functions satisfactorily. Even by concentrating on the collection problem, at the expense of reasonably decent administration, much information remains uncollected. By separate letter to the Chief, Air Attache Branch, a recommendation is being made for the review of personnel requirements of this office.

3. Concerning the collection of intelligence information, it has been found that Chinese mainland information available to this office falls into three general classes. The following listing is made by order of importance and reliability of information received:

a. Aerial photography of the mainland of China accomplished by the Chinese Nationalist Air Force (CNAF).

b. Small amounts of supplemental research information.

c. Agent reports.

4. To date no agent reports from any source have been seen which would appear to be either reliable or of material interest to the Air Force. Supplemental research information can not be discussed here. By far the most outstanding information received by this office is that received from aerial photography of the mainland of China taken by the CNAF. The quality of the photography produced by the CNAF has been pronounced excellent by Air Section MAAG supervisors and FEAF reconnaissance personnel. As of October 1954,

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Ltr CAIRA, Taipei, 6 INT, Subject: Suggestion for Improved Photographic Collection, dated 12 Jan '55

the area of coverage extended from Ning Po (near Shanghai) to Canton, extending inland about 300 miles. While all of the fields in this area are of interest to the USAF, particular emphasis and interest is placed on the photography of Ning Po and the White Cloud complex in the Canton area. Both of these jobs were accomplished by using RDAF RT-33 aircraft. Information recently received from FEAF indicates that local Communist fighter defenses forces attempted to intercept the reconnaissance flights over both Ning Po and White Cloud and that future attempts by the CNAF to photograph these two areas utilizing RT-33 aircraft will become progressively more difficult and dangerous. With the recent loss of one of the two RT-33's assigned to the CNAF, there has been a drastic reduction in the mainland photography received by this office.

5. In view of the above mentioned factors, this office recommends that the Directorate of Intelligence support the following:

a. That four (4) F-86 aircraft modified for reconnaissance work be immediately loaned to the Chinese Nationalist Air Force.

b. That the aircraft be completely equipped with all photographic equipment in excellent working condition when delivered.

c. That consideration be given to eventually equiping one reconnaissance squadron with modified F-86 aircraft.

d. That provisions be made for replacement of reconnaissance aircraft lost on combat photographic missions. This is quite important, as the Chinese Air Force photographic effort will slacken, and their agressive tactics will turn cautious in an effort to conserve equipment unless known replacement aircraft are to be made available.

6. Because of the aggressive attitude of CNAF reconnaissance pilots, the fine spirit of cooperation displayed by the Commanding General CNAF and the quality of their photographic work, this officer is convinced that the resultant valuable increase in mainland photographic coverage that would be made available to the USAF would offset the added expense and inconvenience to USAF activities.

7. The proposals made in this letter are in consonance with eventual but not immediate aims of MAAG Formosa. MAAG seems to be pressing for immediate improvement of the CNAF offensive and defensive capabilities with eventual improvement of the reconnaissance capability. Considering the immediate value to the United States in return for equipment furnished, the Air Attache would like to see the photo reconnaissance section improved now. During his recent visit to Taiwan, Admiral Radford, Chairman of the JCS, asked for recommendations on this subject and received substantially the same information as furnished herein.

R. L. [redacted]
Colonel, USAF
Air Attache

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AFOIN-1A-P/Maj Douglan/71067/vw
wrtn 23 Feb 55

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Ltr Attn, Taiwan, 12 Jan 55, subj: (Unclg) Suggestion Improved Photographic Collection

Ltr, Office of the Air Attache, Taipei, Taiwan, file: 8 INT, subj: Suggestion for Improved Photographic collection, dated 12 Jan 55

DI-R (12 Jan 55) 1st Ind 1100 7 FEB

Dept of the Air Force, Hq. USAF, Washington 25, D. C.

TO: Headquarters, Far East Air Forces, APO 925, San Francisco, California

TO: Director of Intelligence, Headquarters, USAF, Attn: Deputy Director of Intelligence, Washington 25, D. C.

1. This Headquarters concurs with Colonel Kreider's comment. Photography collected through the Chinese Nationalist Air Force has been a major contribution to FEAF's intelligence collection effort.

2. Commander, FEAF, has discussed with the Joint Chiefs of Staff the providing of reconnaissance aircraft to the Chinese Nationalist Air Force. FEAF has been directed to transfer three RF-86 aircraft to the CNAF not later than 30 April 1955. Two RF-33 aircraft are presently available for delivery to the CNAF and will be delivered soon.

3. FEAF will continue to give maximum assistance to the CNAF reconnaissance effort.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

FOR THE COMMANDER:

GROVER C. BROWN
Colonel, USAF
Acting Deputy for Intelligence

NO M/R REQUIRED.

COORDINATION: AFOIN-1A: Maj Douglan

Lt Col Harlow

Col Berry:

AFOIN-1A2:

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